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USSR

Ref. No.: 3/NBF/T980 (of 15/4/1958)

Issued:  28/7/1977

Copy No.: 301

2nd REISSUE

## REPORT ON VEGA'S BEHAVIOUR (1944)

From: MEXICO CITY

To: MOSCOW

No: 223

31 March 1944

To VIKTOR[i]

Yesterday VEGA's[i] wife came to see me and said that VEGA was drinking heavily and coming home very late at night or not coming in to spend the night at all and that he was excusing himself by referring to operational assignments which he was allegedly receiving from me. I have never given him any assignments of an urgent nature. [BX Up till now] I have not told you anything about VEGA's conduct in the hope that I could exert influence on him and reform him without your knowledge. I had a number of talks with him about his hard drinking and he repeatedly promised me to reform but it is clear that my talks have not led to any positive results. I wholly share his wife's fear that V.[i]

[51 groups unrecoverable]

[18 groups unrecovered]

daily. Not being a supporter of his [9 groups unrecovered] I propose to

[Continued overleaf]

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transfer him from TASS to the Embassy [9 groups unrecovered] special measures to cure him of [3 groups unrecovered]. On the other hand your direct order to him was necessary. The editor at TASS [iii] does not object to this plan, but stated: if this

[12 groups unrecovered]  
that V. is drinking heavily. Therefore I propose to transfer V. to the minor post of clerk [REFERENT][iv] and to do this without asking the editor[v].

No. 138[vi]

YURIJ[vii]

- Footnotes:
- [i] VIKTOR: Lt General Pavel Mikhajlovich FITIN.
  - [ii] VEGA/V.: Probably Dmitrij Mikhajlovich POTEMKIN, assistant TASS representative in MEXICO CITY from August 1943 to May or June 1944.
  - [iii] Editor at TASS: Or "in TASS". Probably a reference to the senior TASS representative in MEXICO CITY, Yuriy Vladimirovich DASHKEVICH; but see also Footnote [v].
  - [iv] REFERENT: Term used to denote an Embassy clerk or junior official.
  - [v] Editor: Probably a reference to the Soviet Ambassador in MEXICO CITY, Konstantin Aleksandrovich UMANSKIJ, whose covername was "REDAKTOR", i.e. "EDITOR", from at least 6 April 1944 (3/NBF/T1278); but see also Footnote [iii].\*
  - [vi] Mentioned in MEXICO CITY's Nos 261-262 of 16 April 1944 (3/NBF/T868).
  - [vii] YURIJ: Lev Aleksandrovich TARASOV, First Secretary, Soviet Embassy, MEXICO CITY.

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